Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

determining a weight for each tuple in a set of tuples in a database based on a number of times the tuple was accessed during one or more past queries executed against the database;

selecting a subset of ~~sample~~ tuples from the set of tuples ~~database~~ based on the determined weights ~~of the tuples~~;

determining ~~approximating~~ an answer to a given query using the subset of ~~sample~~ tuples ~~and weights of the sample tuples~~.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein determining ~~approximating~~ the answer to the given query comprises:

executing the given query against the subset of ~~sample~~ tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining ~~approximating~~ the answer to the given query using information from the answer tuples and the weights of the answer tuples.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein determining the ~~approximating an~~ answer to the given query comprises:

~~for each sample tuple,~~ determining a probability with which each ~~the sample~~ tuple in the subet of tuples was selected;

executing the given query against the subset of ~~sample~~ tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining ~~approximating~~ the answer to the given query using information from the answer tuples and the probabilities of the answer tuples.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein determining the ~~approximating an~~ answer to the given query comprises:

~~for each sample tuple,~~ determining a probability with which each ~~the sample~~ tuple in the subset of tuples was selected;

executing the given query against the subset of ~~sample~~ tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining ~~approximating~~ the answer to the given query using information from the answer tuples and inverses of the probabilities of the answer tuples.

53. (Currently Amended) A ~~One or more~~ computer-readable media storing computer-executable instructions, which, when executed by a computing device, implement a method comprising:

collecting information related to one or more past queries against a ~~the~~ database;

examining the collected information to determine ~~an access frequency for~~ a number of times each tuple in a set of tuples in the database was accessed during the one or more past queries;

determining a ~~sample~~ weight for each tuple in the set of tuples based on the number of times ~~access frequency of~~ the tuple was accessed;

selecting a subset ~~sample~~ of tuples from the set of tuples ~~database~~ based on the determined weights ~~of the tuples~~;

executing a query against the subset of tuples ~~sample~~ to determine an ~~approximate~~ answer to the query made against the database.

54. (Currently Amended) The ~~one or more~~ computer-readable media of claim 53, wherein executing the query against the subset of tuples ~~sample~~ to determine the ~~approximate~~ answer to the query made against the database comprises:

for each tuple in the subset of tuples ~~sample~~, determining a probability with which the tuple was selected;

executing the query against the subset of ~~sample of~~ tuples to identify answer tuples; and

determining the ~~approximate~~ answer using information from the answer tuples in the subset of tuples ~~sample~~ and inverses of the probabilities of the answer tuples.